

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL:
U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS

1. IN AN EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH NILUFER YALCIN IN MILLIYET
JANUARY 6, FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL ANSWERED QUESTIONS
ON U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS, THE RECENT VISIT OF SOVIET PREMIER
KOSYGIN, THE CYPRUS SITUATION, AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS.
THIS TELEGRAM DEALS WITH THE PORTIONS CONCERNING U.S.-TURKISH
RELATIONS AND KOSYGIN'S VISIT.

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2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS CAGLAYANGIL MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. TURKEY HAS NOT SOFTENED ITS POSITION IN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

B. TURKEY HAD SHOWN GREAT PATIENCE IN THE FACE OF THE U.S. EMBARGO AND HAD CLOSED THE U.S. INSTALLATIONS ONLY WHEN THE PATIENCE WAS NOT PROPERLY REWARDED.

C. PEOPLE OFTEN CONFUSE TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH TURKISH-NATO RELATIONS. TURKEY REMAINS COMMITTED TO NATO, BUT TURKEY'S COMMITMENT HAD BEEN PREDICATED ON AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. IN RETURN TURKEY ESTABLISHED CERTAIN COMMON INSTALLATIONS. THE 1969 DEFENSE AGREEMENT EMBODIED THESE UNDERSTANDINGS. THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO HAD COMPLETELY UNDERMINED THE 1969 AGREEMENT.

D. THE PRESENT TASK IS TO FIND A NEW BASIS FOR COOPERATION. TURKEY FOR ITS PART NEEDS TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED IN RETURN FOR ITS COMMITMENT. EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN LEGAL SYSTEM AND CONSTITUTION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE A NEW FORMULA SHOULD BE FOUND. "THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE GOING ON NOW ARE AIMED AT FINDING A BASIS FOR THIS CONTINUED COOPERATION."

E. COMMAND OF THE INSTALLATIONS IS A MAJOR ISSUE. THE "TWO-HEADED" SYSTEM OF THE PAST SHOULD BE REPLACED BY "TURKISH BASES UNDER TURKISH COMMAND". CAGLAYANGIL SAID HE EXPECTED THIS TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE U.S. "WITHOUT ANY GREAT DIFFICULTY".

F. IF FULL AGREEMENT IS REACHED BEFORE HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THE VISIT WILL BE SIMPLY A "SIGNING CEREMONY". IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT COMPLETED, HOWEVER, THEY WILL BE CONTINUED AT A "HIGH LEVEL" IN WASHINGTON. IF THESE LATTER TALKS SHOULD NOT RESULT IN A SOLUTION, BOTH SIDES MIGHT AGREE TO FURTHER TALKS AT A LATER DATE -- OR IF THE TWO SIDES CANNOT FIND COMMON GROUND UPON WHICH TO CONTINUE THE TALKS, "WE WILL DO WHAT IS NECESSARY", I.E., NOT PERMIT REACTIVATION OF THE BASES.

G. CLOSURE OF THE U.S. INSTALLATIONS WOULD NOT CREATE A UNCLASSIFIED

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GAP IN TURKEY'S DEFENSES OR CHANGE TURKEY'S ROLE IN NATO. CITING GOT DECISION TO PERMIT CONTINUED FUNCTIONING OF INCIRLIK, CAGLAYANGIL AFFIRMED THAT TURKEY HAS NOT CHANGED ITS COMMITMENT TO NATO.

H. NEVERTHELESS "IF THE ENTIRE NATO SYSTEM SHOULD BE DAMAGED BY THE REMOVAL OF THESE BASES, OR IF TURKEY'S DEFENSE SHOULD BE WEAKENED, THEN WHAT IS NECESSARY WILL BE DONE. NO

NATION CAN EXPECT TO BE DEFENDED BY OTHERS; EVERYONE WILL TAKE MEASURES FOR HIS OWN DEFENSE."

J. U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS ARE NOT BASED SOLELY ON THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES ARE IN AN ALLIANCE AS A RESULT OF COMMON PHILOSOPHIES. CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE FOUNDING OF NATO BUT "OUR NEED FOR NATO CONTINUES". THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO SHOOK MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BUT "I DON'T AGREE WITH THE VIEW THAT THE FRIENDSHIP THAT EXISTED PRIOR TO THE EMBARGO CANNOT BE REVIVED ... TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP IS A STRONG ENOUGH STRUCTURE TO RESIST SUCH TEMPORARY DEFECTS."

K. HAVING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS DOES NOT MEAN TURNING AWAY FROM THE U.S. AT THE SAME TIME TURKISH FRIENDSHIP WITH THE U.S. CANNOT BE BASED ON ANIMOSITY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. TURKEY WILL KEEP PACE WITH THE DETENTE POLICY AND BENEFIT FROM MUTUAL INTERESTS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD.

L. WITH RESPECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SIGNING A NON-AGRESSION PACT WITH THE SOVIET UNION, CAGLAYANGIL SAID A GENERAL DON-AGRESSION PACT SEEMS TO HAVE COME INTO BEING SINCE "ONE STATE'S INTENTION TO ATTACK ANOTHER HAS BEEN TOTALLY ELIMINATED". IF THIS DEVELOPMENT IS COMPLEMENTED BY A GENERAL AND CONTROLLED DISARMAMENT, "WE HOPE ... THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR PACTS ANYMORE."
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